

Save water, money & the environment

Sydney Water's **Every Drop Counts** program is designed to help you save water, money and the environment. By saving water you'll be managing the resources in your business more effectively, saving money and making a positive contribution to the environment.

- The amount of energy and water used by laundry facilities, as well as labour costs, can have a significant impact on total operating costs
- A heavy reliance on chemicals also places an unnecessary load on sewerage systems and contributes to environmental pollution.

Commercial washing machines

Most commercial washer-extractors can be retrofitted with a tank to save the final rinse water, which can then be reused as pre-wash in the next load.

The storage tank can be either fitted within, or on top of, each machine, or combined at a detached location using a pumped supply.

Modifications that require consideration may include the segregation of waste streams, additional machine programming and space limitations.

Washer-extractor:

You can cut water consumption by as much as 30% by reusing water from the final rinse cycle for the next load.



Best practice water usage for washer-extractors with and without reuse

Rating	Water usage without reuse (litres/kg of linen)	Water usage with reuse * (litres/kg of linen)
Good	17 – 22	12 – 15
Fair	22 – 26	15 – 18
Poor	>26	>18

* Reuse water from specific cycles, such as the final rinse, via temporary storage tanks

Being smart with water makes good business sense



Continuous batch washers

Before undertaking major expansion or refurbishment of your current laundry operations, consider using continuous batch washers. Counter-current flow used in continuous batch washers uses up to 70% less water and steam compared to a conventional washer-extractor of similar capacity. Labour costs are also reduced due to the automation.

Domestic washing machines

Front loading vs top loading

- When looking to make your next purchase, consider a AAA-rated front loading machine
- Front loaders use 63% less water than standard top loaders.

Other benefits:

- Front loaders are more energy efficient
- Front loaders are less noisy and save space when a dryer is stacked on top.



THE AAA RATING SCHEME EXPLAINED



The AAA water efficient rating scheme is used to identify appliances that are water efficient. The more 'A's an appliance has, the greater the water efficiency. The scheme applies to showerheads, dishwashers, washing machines, taps and other items. Look for the AAA label on water efficient appliances.

Other water saving tips:

- Operate machines only when fully loaded
- Pre-sort your garments, linen, etc prior to loading the machine
- Adhere to the manufacturer's recommended settings and regularly check that the water level is correct during operation. Correct levels also assist in mechanical action during the wash cycle
- Discuss ways that you can reduce water consumption with your laundry chemical supplier
- Carry out regular maintenance to ensure water valves and dump drains are free from leaks
- Turn off, and isolate the steam supply to equipment when not in use. This will conserve energy required for heating and reduce the make-up water demand for your boiler
- If your dry cleaning machine is water-cooled, assess the possibility of converting the cooling operation to a closed system.

